Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02685 270126Z

70/15
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 /034 W
---------- 027504
R 250729Z FEB 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2483

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2685

LIMDIS

E.J O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP
SUBJECT: IMELDA AND THE INTELLECTUALS

1. FEBRUARY 23 ASIAN EDITOR OF NEWSWEEK CARRIES FOUR PAGE SPREAD ON IMELDA MARCOS, THE RESULT OF A VISIT HERE BY TWO EDITORS EARLIER THIS MONTH. ARTICLES, WHICH INCLUDE VERBATIM INTERVIEWS WITH IMELDA AND PRESIDENT, ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND IMELDA LIKES THEM.

2. HOWEVER, STORY CONTAINS COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "WESTERN DIPLOMAT," WHICH SAYS, INTER ALIA, "THE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS AND THE INTELLECTUALS CAN'T STAND HER." SINCE I WAS THE ONLY "WESTERN DIPLOMAT" THE NEWSWEEK EDITORS SPOKE TO, IT HAS NOT BEEN DIFFICULT FOR IMELDA TO IDENTIFY ME AS THE SOURCE, AND I HAVE NOT DENIED THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE QUOTE, EVEN THOUGH THE LANGUAGE IS NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE.

3. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, IMELDA HASTILY ORGANIZED A DINNER FEBRUARY 24, TO WHICH SHE INVITED "GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR," IN POSH NEW SUBURBAN RESTAURANT. I ARRIVED JUDICIOUSLY LATE (ABOUT 9 P.M.) TO FIND A RESTLESS GROUP OF ABOUT 30 "INTELLECTUALS," WELL INTO THEIR THIRD OR FOURTH PRE-PRANDIAL LIBATION. THEY WERE MOSTLY PROFESSORS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND WERE BEING WATCHED OVER BY TWO OF IMELDA'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 02685 270126Z

SHEEPDOGS, CARMEN GUERRERO NAKPIL AND ADRIANO CRISTOBAL.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

4. ABOUT 9:30, IMELDA SWEPT IN WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS, ALL OF WHOM IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES TO ME AS "UPPER MIDDLE CLASS" (EXCEPT FOR ONE, WHO WHISPERED THAT SHE WAS AN OLIGARCH). WE WERE THEN DISPOSED AT A LARGE U-SHAPED TABLE, WHERE I WAS SEATED AT THE CENTER, BETWEEN IMELDA AND CARMEN NAKPIL. FOUR "INTELLECTUALS" WERE SEATED OPPOSITE US, BUT AS THE DINNER PROGRESSED, THEY WERE REPLACED IN RELAYS BY OTHER TEAMS OF FOUR. NOT ONE OF THEM EVER SAID A WORD, BUT ALL WERE ALLOWED, BETWEEN COURSES, TO OVERHEAR INEFFABLE EXPRESSIONS OF WISDOM.

5. CONVERSATION OPENED CIVILLY, WITH IMELDA DEPRECIATING BALI SUMMIT, APPROVING NIXON IN CHINA (SHE SCOFFED WHEN I SUGGESTED WE OUGHT TO INVITE TENG HSIAO-PING TO WASHINGTON), AND EVENTUALLY RAISING THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLES. IN DUE COURSE, HOWEVER, IT TURNED INTO A MONOLOGUE, PRONOUNCED LARGELY FOR THE RELAY TEAMS OF ATTENTIVE INTELLECTUALS, ABOUT THE FOLLY OF PANDERING TO THE WESTERN PRESS, THE FACT THAT U.S. BUSINESSMEN WOULD INVEST IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PROFIT NO MATTER WHAT THE REGIME, ETC. EVENTUALLY, THIS PROSE SWEPT INTO THE GRANDER VISTAS OF A QUEEN REGENT EXPOUNDING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM. UNIVERSITIES ARE TO BE BROKEN UP AND DISPERSED TO THE PROVINCES, CO-LOCATED WITH "SOURCES OF ELECTRIC POWER" AND NEW SATELLITE POPULATION CLUSTERS ARE TO BE FORMED, WITH INDUSTRIAL CENTERS OF THEIR OWN, COTTAGE INDUSTRIES ARE TO BE ESCHEWED AS MERE PALLIATIVES, AGRICULTURE IS TO BE MECHANIZED, BUT CREATURE COMFORTS ARE TO BE MODERATE, BECAUSE "WE ASIANS PREFER THE SIMPLE LIFE."

6. DURING ALL THIS FASCINATING DISQUISITION, SEVERAL OF THE PROFESSORS WHO HAD IMBIBED WELL WERE DISTRACTED BY THE MUSIC OF THE ORCHESTRA AND INVITED SOME OF THE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS LADIES TO DANCE. ONE DISTINQUISHED, BUT DECIDEDLY INEBRIATED UP DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROACHED IMELDA WITH THE SAME INTENTION. AFTER GENTLY CARRESSING HER HAND SEVERAL TIMES IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN HER ATTENTION, HE WAS LED QUIETELY AWAY TO THE BAR BY ONE OF THE SECURITY MEN, WHO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 02685 270126Z

OCCUPIED TWO SMALLER ROUND TABLES IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO OUR DAIS. IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER THIS EVENT THAT CRISTOBAL, APPARENTLY ON THE URGING OF OTHER PROFESSORS, APPROACHED AND SUGGESTED THAT CURFEW HAD ARRIVED (ONE A.M.).

7. AS WE BROKE FROM THE TABLE TO GO, IMELDA, WITH SOME HUMOR, MADE CLEAR THAT I HAD FAILED TO CATCH THE SPARK OF HER ENTHUSIASM BY TELLING ME THAT I WAS STILL OBVIOUSLY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

"NOT ON HER WAVELENGTH." I REPLIED BY SAYING THAT I
THOUGHT I WAS FAIRLY WELL TUNED IN TO FM. SHE REPLIED
IMMEDIATELY, "HERE YOU HAVE TO BE ON STEREO." IN CASE
I DIDN'T GET THE POINT, MS. MAKPIL OBSERVED "HERE WE HAVE
IM, TOO."

8. FINALLY, REMEMBERING THE INTELLECTUALS, IMELDA CONVENED
THEM AROUND HERE IN A HUDDLE FOR A FEW FINAL WORDS OF
WISDOM. THEN, GATHERING UP A COUPLE OF UPPER MIDDLE CLASS
LADIES, SHE SWEPT INTO HER LIMOUSINE AND SPED OFF INTO THE
NIGHT. AS I LEFT, THE INTELLECTUALS WERE CLUSTERED IN SOME
BEWILDERMENT ON THE SIDEWALK, WHILE ONE OF THE SECURITY
MEN PASSED AMONG THEM HANDING OUT CURFEW PASSES. NEWSWEEK
MISSED A GREAT VIGNETTE.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLECTUALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA02685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760073-0310
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760215/aaaaammh.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMELDA AND THE INTELLECTUALS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, (MARCOS, IMELDA ROMUALDEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006